

## **What's New**

### **FY 2008 Exchange Network Solicitation Notice**

**This year we are pioneering a different approach for grant application submission and award notification. In addition, we are announcing the development of Node 2.0 specifications.**

#### **Shorter application**

The application will consist of six documents rather than 13. The six documents (listed below) focus on the information the evaluation panel needs to review the merits and feasibility of the grant proposals.

- A cover letter (see Appendix D for content)
- A list of no more than five (5) Federally or non-Federally funded assistance agreements performed in the last three (3) years) of similar size and scope to the current proposal
- Project Narrative Attachment Form – Work Plan
- Budget Narrative Attachment Form and Detailed Itemized Budget
- Copy of Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement,
- Resume(s) of the Project Manager(s) or Project Lead(s)

#### **Earlier Notification**

EPA will notify the applicants of the selection recommendations immediately after they are made in March 2008. At that point, successful applicants will be required to submit the remaining seven documents required to process awards (e.g., SF424, SF424A). OEI anticipates that all grants will be awarded by July 2008.

#### **Node 2.0**

The Network Technology Group is working on Node 2.0 specifications. Node 2.0 is a set of enhancements to the existing Network Exchange Protocol (v1.1) and the Network Node Functional Specification (v 1.1). All Exchange Network Partners will eventually need to update all existing Node infrastructure to be compliant with the Node 2.0 specifications because the new World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) Web Service standards were not designed to be backward compatible.